

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are currently pending in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,312,335 to Lee in view of U.S. Patent 6,083,207 to Heck. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 1 recites a tearable hemostasis valve comprised in part by a snap-fit arrangement coupled to a distal end of the valve body, wherein the snap-fit arrangement is adapted to couple onto an outer surface of an annular hub of a proximal end of a tubular medical device, wherein said snap-fit arrangement comprises a cavity disposed in said valve body and an annular sidewall defining an opening in communication with said cavity, wherein a diameter of the opening formed by the annular sidewall is less than the diameter of the cavity. (Underlining added for emphasis only). Applicant respectfully submits that neither Lee nor Heck, alone or in combination disclose or suggest the recited claim elements.

Rather, the medical valve of Lee includes a locking lip located at the proximal end that couples into a dilator hub. (Lee, FIG. 2). Further, the hemostasis valve system of Heck includes a hemostasis valve housing and an adaptor system secured to the partitioned hemostasis valve housing, by which a splittable sheath (i.e. tubular medical device) can be secured to the partitioned hemostasis valve system, for example, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. Heck further discloses that in a preferred embodiment, the adaptor system (18) includes a pair of sides which when brought together, create a structure which holds a T-shaped top of the splittable sheath. (Heck, col. 8, lines 40-49). The adaptor system of Heck then forms a tight fit around the T-shaped handle of the splittable sheath to hold it securely in place.

Thus, the tubular device of Heck does not include a snap and fit arrangement adapted to couple onto an annular hub of a tubular medical device as recited in claim 1 of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is novel and unobvious over Lee and Heck and is therefore allowable. Applicant further

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submits that claims 2-12 that depend from claim 1 is allowable as is claim 1 and for additional limitations recited therein.

In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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